



Preserving & Promoting  
Southold's History

54325 Main Road  
PO Box 1  
Southold NY 11971

631.765.5500  
FAX 631.765.8510  
sohissoc@optonline.net  
www.southoldhistoricalsociety.org

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 50  
Southold NY



# SOUTHOLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2012 - 2013

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The Holidays are upon us.

Whether you were out shopping the day after Thanksgiving or visiting Santa at the Museum Complex during the Candlelight Tour, there always is much to get done before the end of the year. Here at the office, it is no different, with many of us trying to bring projects to a successful conclusion. We are finishing up a book on the Wickham Murders, a fascinating true crime story that took place in 1854 and involved notable men from all over the state, including the attorney general.

Planning for three new exhibits next year is also well under way. In the spring will be a photography exhibit on local baseball player Harold "Goldie" Goldsmith; in the summer will be an exhibit on the Wickham Murders to coincide with the release of our new book, and in the fall will be an exhibit on Long Island decoys by the DeMott family. In addition, we expect to have a few artist and gallery organized exhibits in our new building, the Reichert Center, during the year - watch for more information on these as the year progresses.

Many thanks to all of you who have donated to the Annual Appeal. The money raised helps us to meet our mission and to support activities across the Society.

At the end of the year, it is once again time to thank all our wonderful volunteers. All of you make what we do possible, and we hope to see both old and new faces joining us in our efforts in the new year!

— Geoffrey K. Fleming  
Director

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Southold Historical Society will take place on Monday, January 28, 2013 at 5pm at the wharf-house, located at the end of Hobart Road in Southold.

## PLUM ISLAND BOOK

The Society's new project entails the writing and publishing of a detailed history of Plum Island from the period of colonial settlement through modern times. It will be the first book ever written solely about Plum Island. We have been awarded a grant by the Gerry Charitable Trust in the amount of \$15,000 in support of this project which we have to match by the end of the year (2012). We hope that anyone interested in the fascinating history of Plum Island will consider making a donation.

We are also currently looking for original documents and images relating to the historic structures and families that once occupied Plum Island. If you are a descendant of the Beebe, Tuthill, or other notable families that once called the Island home, please consider sharing the material you have with us. It will help make this project much richer and more interesting.



— CANDLELIGHT TOUR —

"Wow, that was some line at the Candlelight Tour"

## ....BAINBRIDGE INTERNSHIP....

Applications are now being accepted through February 15, 2013 for the Bainbridge Memorial Internship - application instructions can be found on the Society's website under the heading "Bainbridge Memorial Internship." The internship honors a former board member and supporter of the Historical Society, Mildred Bainbridge (1907-1992). Born in Brooklyn, Long Island, Mildred Bainbridge was the daughter of Ella (1882-1954) and Henry C. Bainbridge Jr. (1882-1956). The Bainbridge family were the proprietors of the Charles T. Bainbridge & Co., founded in 1867, who were noted for their artist materials, including "Bainbridge Board." The family had a summer estate on Nassau Point at Cutchogue, Long Island, named "Sunset Meadows." At the time of Mildred Bainbridge's death in 1992, she left her large estate, valued at over five million dollars, to a variety of charities on the North Fork, including the Southold Historical Society. The Society honors her generous gift through the annual awarding of the internship in her name.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JANUARY 28, 5pm - Annual Meeting and dinner at Founder's Landing**

**MARCH 12, 5:30pm - Potluck Supper. Once again Jeni's Main Street Grill will host this winter time favorite. Please bring a main course or appetizer as Jen will supply dessert - yum!**

**APRIL 11, 12 - 8pm - April Showers Dinner. The annual spring dinner will be held at the Sound View Inn and will feature choice of chicken, fish, or a vegetarian meal. 50/50 raffle tickets will be available at the office or on-site the day of the dinner.**

## GOLDIE EXHIBIT

This upcoming spring (2013) we are having an exhibit on Harold "Goldie" Goldsmith but we need your help! Do you have a Southold High School Baseball uniform from the 1930's or 1940's? Scorecards? Letters? Anything on local baseball teams?

**If you do please contact Geoff Fleming or Amy Folk at the Prince Building, 765-5500.**

## THE TREASURE EXCHANGE



Open through Friday, December 22.

We will see you next year!



Did you send your check into the ANNUAL APPEAL? There is still time!

John Barnes  
 PRESIDENT

Constance Case  
 1st VICE PRESIDENT

Helen Didriksen  
 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Margaret "Lee" Cleary  
 TREASURER

Joan Latham  
 ASSISTANT TREASURER

Elyse "Chris" Wruck  
 SECRETARY



TRUSTEES

Michael Braverman

Rudolph Bruer IV

Barbara Brunjes

Sara Evans

Betty Goldsmith

Joyce Grigonis

Janet Larsen

Jennifer Raymond

Joel Reitman

Ron Rossi

Welcome interim trustee:

Richard Vessa



STAFF

Geoffrey K. Fleming  
 DIRECTOR

Deanna Witte-Walker  
 OFFICE MANAGER

Amy Folk  
 COLLECTIONS MANAGER

Dan McCarthy  
 ARCHIVES ASSISTANT

Walter Jackson  
 OFFICE ASSISTANT



Next deadline for the newsletter:  
 March 1st for April, May and June 2013

The Society Office will be CLOSED:  
 Martin Luther King Day (Jan 21)  
 Presidents Day (Feb 18)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*'Tis the Season ...*

In this holiday season of giving, sharing and mutual supporting, I can think of no organization that fits the role better than the Southold Historical Society.

Whether it is the Candlelight Tour with hundreds of happy faces, beautiful decorations and an endless line of eager children waiting to talk to Santa, or the core of dedicated volunteers who support the community and each other at the Treasure Exchange (great place to buy gifts), the Museum Shop (great books on local history), and in the new Reichert Family Center and Cosden Price Gallery (wonderful art displays). This Society has much to be proud of, and as its President, I am happy to sing its praises. Thank you all for your good work and your contribution to our Society and community. You surely are an outstanding representation of exactly what the holiday Season is all about.

Please remember to renew your membership soon and keep in mind that new volunteers are always welcome. With your continued support we can keep on giving.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

— John Barnes, President



BARNABAS HORTON HOUSE

Recently, the Society has received the offer of a very important historic building. The majority of the 17<sup>th</sup> century home of Barnabas Horton (and the first courthouse in Suffolk County) was demolished in 1878, with only the small kitchen wing surviving. The wing was used as a shop, a meeting place for the Girl Scouts and



other activities before being moved to Bayview to serve as a small summer cottage. The building has been offered to the Society, and we are now working on plans to possibly move it to the grounds of the Museum Complex where it will be restored and used for our children's educational programs. If you would like to help support this project, give us a call in the office at 765-5500.

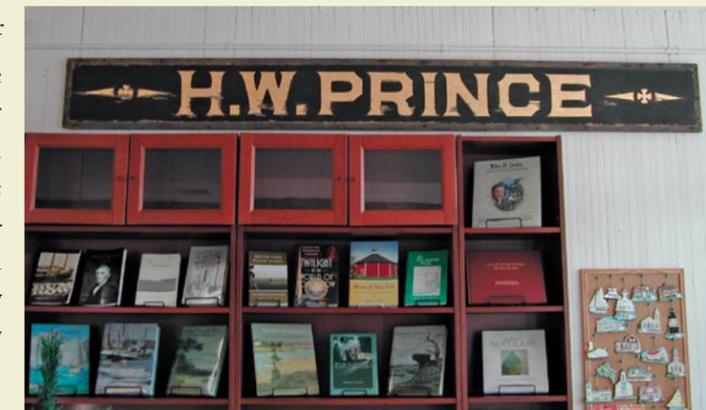
FROM THE ARCHIVES

Picture the thought! Noticing the card catalogs here in the archives I've come across thousands of various and significant photographs by Charles Harper Meredith. He was born in Toronto, Canada on April 24, 1889 and came to Peconic in 1909 as a telegrapher for the Long Island Railroad and owned and operated a radio repair shop there. Later he had a commercial photography shop on Depot Lane in Cutchogue. At the time of his death on September 19, 1966, he was taking pictures of an auto accident. We have over 500 photographs by Greenport photographer Frank Ketcham Hartley. He was a renowned artist who drew cartoons and wrote poetry and prose. Frank also was a telephone lineman who ran a picture show in Greenport in the old opera house for 12 years. Whatever the subject, these lens-men were able to interpret so many topics. Come see for yourself right here! — Dan McCarthy (Reach me at the Archives Tuesdays 9am - 3pm, by e-mail: southoldresearch@gmail.com or phone 765-5500.

FROM THE COLLECTIONS

Every once in a while, an item re-emerges from the collection which deserves recognition because it is historically significant to our Society. The other day while poking around we found the original, black, Henry Prince Building sign. The sign that currently hangs on the outside of the building is a reproduction made by Jim Fenton years ago. We were never certain where the original sign had ended up. As it turns out, it had been stored in between a couple of bookcases in the Prince Building basement years ago. The sign is one of several advertising signs that Prince made for his business. Photographs in the collection from the period when Prince owned only half of the building, show a white H.W. Prince sign over his door. This one was probably created when he purchased the other side of the building from G. Frank Hommel, who had run a shoe shop. The newly re-discovered sign has joined other ones hanging on display in the gift shop. — Amy Folk

HENRY PRINCE'S SIGN



HORTON POINT LIGHTHOUSE



Members of the Schwiebert family sitting on the bench dedicated to their sister and aunt, Anne Schwiebert.

2012 was another successful year at the Lighthouse. More than 2,100 visitors from 33 states and 11 countries enjoyed the museum, tower, park and nature trails.

A highlight of the year was the installation on the Lighthouse porch of a teak bench dedicated in memory of Anne Louise Schwiebert, former Lighthouse Committee Chair. Anne frequently expressed her desire for the lighthouse to be a place of peace; we know she would be delighted to see our visitors sitting on the porch, savoring the view. — Jill Wilson and Irene Markotsis (Co-Chairs)

PLANNED GIVING

Consider Planned Giving: You can become a part of the Southold Historical Society's legacy by including the Society in your estate plans. Giving opportunities include outright bequests of cash, securities or property. We recommend that you discuss your estate plans with your own legal and financial advisors. Kindly notify the Society at 765-5500 if you are considering a bequest or if you have any other questions. Planned Giving is fundamental to the long-term success of the Society.



Volunteers enjoying a beautiful day and luncheon in their honor up at the Horton Point Lighthouse.